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LETTER DATED 3 AUGUST 1999 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF IRAQ TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

On instructions from my Government, I have the honour to transmit to you herewith a letter dated 2 August 1999 from Mr. Mohammed Said Al-Sahaf, Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Iraq, concerning the crimes committed by the United States of America and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland on 29 and 30 July 1999 when they bombed civilian areas in Iraq, killing dozens of civilians and wounding dozens more, and destroyed many civilian installations, and requesting the Security Council to condemn these acts of aggression and to intervene with the United States and the United Kingdom to put an end to the aggression they are perpetrating against Iraq.

I should be grateful if you would have this letter and its annex circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Saeed H. HASAN
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

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Annex

Letter dated 2 August 1999 from the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Iraq addressed to the President of the Security Council

Pursuant to my letter dated 22 July 1999, I have the honour to inform you that on 29 and 30 July 1999 the United States of America and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland committed further barbarous crimes in the north and south of Iraq, in addition to the series of hideous crimes that those two States commit on a daily basis against the people and the Republic of Iraq and its security and integrity. Details of the hostile acts perpetrated by the United States and the United Kingdom on the two days mentioned appear below:

1. At 0610 hours on 29 July 1999, eight formations of United States and British aircraft flew 20 sorties from Saudi and Kuwaiti airspace supported by one AWACS early-warning aircraft from inside Saudi airspace and one E-2C aircraft from inside Kuwaiti airspace. They overflew Muthanna, Najaf, Karbala and Wasit governorates in the south of Iraq and bombed a number of civilian and service installations and peaceful Iraqi residential districts in Wasit governorate, killing eight Iraqi civilians and wounding 25, most of whom were women and children, and destroying a number of residential buildings, causing material damage to many others.

At 1020 hours on the same day, nine formations of United States and British aircraft carried out 18 further sorties from Turkish airspace supported by an AWACS aircraft. They overflew Dohuk, Irbil and Ninawa governorates in the northern region, bombing civilian and service installations in Ninawa governorate and wounding several civilians.

2. At 1630 hours on 30 July 1999, 22 United States and British formations flew 32 armed sorties from Saudi airspace and 24 armed sorties from Kuwaiti airspace, supported by two AWACS and E-2C command and control aircraft from Saudi and Kuwaiti airspace. They overflew Basra, Muthanna, Dhi Qar, Najaf and Maysan governorates in the southern region, and bombed civilian service installations and residential districts in the town of Najaf, killing three citizens and wounding two others.

At 1100 hours on the same day, 11 formations of United States and British aircraft carried out 24 armed sorties from Turkish airspace supported by an AWACS aircraft. They overflew Dohuk, Irbil and Ninawa governorates in northern Iraq, bombing civilian and service installations in Ninawa governorate killing six civilians and wounding 21.

This brings to 10,683 the total number of attacks and armed sorties, up to 30 July 1999, by United States and British aircraft from Turkish, Saudi and Kuwaiti airspace since the day of the barbarous armed aggression against Iraq on 17 December 1998.

I wish to point out that the United States Administration and the British Government imposed the two so-called air exclusion zones, by a unilateral and

illegal decision, on the illusory and entirely mendacious pretext of "protecting civilians" in the southern and northern regions of Iraq, and that they have violated Iraqi airspace by flying armed sorties and bombing civilians and civilian installations on a pretext even more squalid than their criminal acts themselves, namely the claim that the attacking United States and British warplanes are acting in self-defence in Iraqi airspace.

The area in which these crimes have been committed is devoid of any military installations. This means that the aerial bombardment was planned in advance and that its main objective was to injure, kill and terrorize civilians and damage the property of the Iraqi people. These hostile acts carried out by two permanent members of the Security Council against Iraq and Iraqi sovereignty and security are shameless acts of aggression, a blatant violation of the Charter of the United Nations and international law, a blatant infringement of the sovereignty of an independent State Member of the United Nations and a scandalous violation of all international treaties.

In condemning these repeated criminal acts against our country, we urge the Security Council to condemn these acts of aggression and to intervene with the Governments of the United States and the United Kingdom to induce them to put an end to such acts and not to repeat them. The Government of the Republic of Iraq regards all the States - whether those whose aircraft perpetrate these criminal acts or those from whose territory the aircraft take off, namely Saudi Arabia, Kuwait and Turkey - as being fully responsible for these hostile actions, and for the material and moral damage they have inflicted and are inflicting on the Republic of Iraq. We also take this opportunity to affirm the legally established right of the Republic of Iraq to seek compensation for all the material and moral damage that has been inflicted on Iraq by the perpetration of these hostile acts which are incompatible with the Charter of the United Nations and the provisions of international law.

(Signed) Mohammed Said AL-SAHAF
Minister for Foreign Affairs
of the Republic of Iraq